

A
TRUE DISCOVERY
OF THOSE TREASONS

of which *Geils Dan Ledenberch* was

a *Prætor* one of the Generall States of the
United Netherlands Provinces; Through
the Advice, and Assistance of *Joh*
van Olden Barneveldt.

And

For which (after Arraignment, Sentence,
and Judgement) execution was done on the
dead body of the said LEDENBERCH,
after he had most inhumanly mur-
dered himselfe, through the
gaillines, and horror of
his conscience.



*Also a Copie of Barneveldts last
Letter to his Wife, and Children*

LONDON

Printed by R. Griffin for the N. Bower and are to be sold
at his Shop neere Saint Andrews gate.

1619.

plz Art.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE TREASURES

of which the Lord Jesus Christ was

the author and the Lord Jesus Christ was

the author and the Lord Jesus Christ was

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THE PRINTERS

PRIVILEGE.



*The States generall of the united
Netherland Provinces, haue
granted and giuen licence vnto
Hillebrant Iacobson sworne
Printer vnto the said States
in generall, and to the States of
Holland in particular, and by these presents giue
and grant licence vnto him, that he only for the
space of two yeares next ensuing shall and may print
and giue forth in Dutch, the iudgements by the Iudges
appointed therunto by the said States giuen vpon
Geillis van Eedenberch, sometime Secretarie to
the States of Vtrecht, and executed vpon his dead
body on the 15. of May, 1619. stilo nouo. Pro-
hibiting all and euery Printer in generall and particu-
lar, as also all the inhabitants of the said united Pro-
vinces, to print or cause to be printed, or sold, the
said Sentence, or Iudgement within the time afore-*

The PRINTER'S privilege.

*And that the sum of 100. Carolus goodden
The said sum shall be given to the Officer
that shall make survey of the same; the second third
part to the pore; and the last third part to the use
of the said Hillebrand Jacobson. Given at the
assembly of the said State generall in Crauen
Hagerdore 9 May, anno 1619. Stilo nouo.*

L. van DORT v.

By order from the said State generall

G. ARNSTEN.

*No Copies to be taken
but only the original printed by
the said printer Jacobson.*



THE CONFESSION,

Arraignment, and Iudgement of

Guilis van Ledenberg sometimes Secre-

tarie to the States of VTRAUGHT;

Together with the Execution done

on his dead body, upon the 15.

of May, anno 1649.

Guile. Noun.



GUILIS VAN LEDEN-

BERGH, sometime

Secretarie to the States

of VTRAUGHT, be-

ing committed to

prison by the Gene-

rall States of the uni-

ted Netherland Pro-

vinces, without racke or any bodily tor-

ments, confessed vnto the Commissioners

thereunto appointed by the said Generall

States, (as the Iudges by the said States there-

unto ordained, for the deciding of the said

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Processe)

A Discoverie of the
Process) by his said confession and other-
wise found to be true.

THE CONFESSION

That notwithstanding that the united
Netherland Provinces, by divers and gene-
rall treaties, agreements, conclusions, in-
structions, and resolutions, were bound
with body, life and goods to maintaine and
uphold the reformed religion by them re-
ceiued, and preached within the said yuited
Provinces, and not to alter the same, nor
cause or suffer any alteration therein to be
made: Yet the said *Edinburgh*, sought to doe
the contrary, and to that end and aimed
strange, and most dangerous measures for
the State of the Land, and to challenge main-
tenance that each particular Province had power
and authority of itselfe in their severall Pro-
vinces, as their pleasure, to encrease and use
what religion they willy, without any con-
sent or authority from the other Provinces
in general, and under pretence thereof,
sought to perturb and vex the same reformed

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of Church, and to that end inuented the meanes, that diuers new and strange opinions, against the order of the reformed religion, were brought into the same, and many rigorous resolutions executed, and put in practise against those of the true reformed religion, that went and exercised the same their religion, in publique Churches without the Towne and Province of Vtrecht, and to that end he the said *Ledenberch*, then being Secretarie to the States of Vtrecht, (hauing nothing to doe with the politique State of the Towne) caused a sharpe and bitter Proclamation or Edict (contrarie to his vocation) to be made, and in the name of the Magistrate of Vtrecht to be published, against those of the reformed religion. Against whom he proceeded in such sharpe and bitter manner, that he termed them to be mutinous and factious persons, and their assemblies to bee riotous meetings. And notwithstanding that the KING of Great Britaine, and the most part of the Provinces, and members of the vnitie, (for the extirping of the differences in religion) thought

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Discovery of the

it fit and necessarie to call and summon a
nationall Synode, which accordingly was
by the said States generall published and
proclaimed; He devised the meanes, that
the States of the Prouince of Vtrecht, refused
to consent and agree thereunto. And per-
ceiuing that he could not vphold and main-
taine his innouation of religion, without
that he and his complices armed themselves
against the vnited States, because the ordina-
rie Souldiers that then lay in the garrisons,
were bound by oath, onely to bee true vn-
to those that maintained and vpheld the
true reformed religion; and that diuers
Townes in Holland agreeing together with
him, and others of the gouernment of V-
trecht, for the maintenance of the innouati-
on of religion, had consented vnto a reso-
lute determination dated the 4. of *August*
1617. by the power and force thereof to
arme and strengthen themselves with new
companies of Souldiers, as also that *John van*
alden Barneste as then Aduocate or Coun-
cellor of Holland, at that time was come to
Vtrecht, He the said Ledenberch, held cer-
taine

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taime secret conferences with the said Barne-
uelt, and thereby agreed presently to take
vp new companies of Souldiers in Vtrecht,
at the first mouing the same vnto some of
his particular Confederates, and after in the
Counsell-chamber of the said towne, before
and among some of the gouernment there-
of by him, of his owne authority warned to
appeare there at an vnaccustomed time, with
whom he debated and determined thereup-
on without the knowledge of others the
Councell of the said Towne, whom hee
distrusted, and against whom hee in the
said assembly alledged certaine causes and
reasons of suspition to be had of them, na-
ming in the register of the said secret assem-
bly some to be present, that were not there,
and omitting to name others, that then per-
sonally appeared. And when the Bourgh-
masters of Vtrecht, (who by no meanes
would agree to the taking vp and raising of
new Souldiers, without the consent of the
States) sought to dissuade them from it,
with a very impertinent demandaund, (who-
ther they would cause the Towne bell to

Of Discoverie of the

that end to be rung, and put it to the popular voice) he found the meanes, that without any further deliberation, onely by the States within the towne, it was decreed and determined, that 600. new Souldiers should be taken vp, there within the towne of Vtrecht, in six companies, which was likewise put in effect, without once giving any intelligence thereof vnto the Generall States, or his Excellencie as their State-holder and Capitaine generall, nor yet ioyning the said new Souldiers then taken vp, (by the aduice and counsell of the said Barnevelt) by oath with the garrisons then in seruice of the States, but binding them by a particular oath to be obedient onely to the States of Vtrecht, and to imploy themselves in the seruice (both within and without Vtrecht, as well by water as by land) of the said States of Vtrecht, or of their good neighbours, friends, and complices, and not to respect or regard any other commandement, then that onely which should be given them by the said States of Vtrecht. Not regarding nor respecting that the towne of Vtrecht
cuer

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ever since *anno* 1610. was still burthened with a great garrison of the generall States Souldiers, and very well furnished and provided against all popular troubles and up-
rores: And further that the security of the said towne by order from the counsell of Estate, in the same year was remitted and referred to the generallitie: Hee the said *Ledenberch* himselfe acknowledging and confessing, that the said leuying of Souldiers was made against the rest of the united Prouinces whom they held to be their Adversaries.

2

Thus the better to moue the said States, to the willing and readie raising of the said Souldiers he made them believe and perswaded them, that the charge thereof should be borne by the generallitie, or for want thereof that some of the ordinarie Souldiers under the States generall should not be paid their wages, and so forth nothing more.

A Discouery of the

And which, the generall States, by letters sent vnto the States of Vtrecht writ vnto them, of the vnlawfull, and disorderly, and suspicious manner of taking, and raising of those new Souldiers: He, by the aduice of the said Barnevelt, vpon the 6. of September 1617. made and drew an answer vnto them in so far agreeing with that by the which the new Souldiers were leuied.

4

And although the said States generall once againe expressly sent to Vtrecht, to signify their dislikes and opinions of the aforesaid vnreasonable, and suspicious raising of new Souldiers, and to take away and aside all manner of pretences, to tell them, that they should not without their consents lessen the garrison there, but rather (if need were) to increase the same, at their owne discretion, he found meanes, that the States of

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of Vtrecht refused their said aduise, and still kept and maintained the new Souldiers, to the great charge and expence of the said Province.

And hauing in this manner brought the States of Vtrecht to vndertake warre against the rest of the vnited Prouinces, and his Excellencie, he according to the foresaid aduise and conference, with the said *Barnueels*, dealt in such manner, that vpon report made that his Excellencie, was to come, and to passe by Vtrecht, resolved to write a letter vnto his said Excellencie, thereby, (notwithstanding the contradiction of some of the States of the towne and that he was their State holder,) desiring him not to come thither, but to take an other way, with aduise to wish him to follow their counsell therein: penning the letter in such manner, that his Excellencie thereby was taxed to be the Fauorer of those that went about to make popular comotion: by that meanes, the better to ani-

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more the States of Vtrecht against his said
Excellencie.

That he was the cause that the said letter
was kept a certaine time at the *Hage*, by
Monsieur Moersbergen, and other Communities
there, vnsealed, and many times renewed, vn-
till that in *March 1618*, his Excellencie was
to go to the assembly in *Gelderland*, and then
the said letter was againe renewed, and sealed
up, and that one copie thereof was sent to
the Deputies then resident in the *Hage*, to be
delivered to his Excellencie if hee were not
gone from thence, and that the like letter
was delivered vnto his said Excellencie at
Leyderdorp, by *Ten Stege*, Clarke to the States
of Vtrecht: And fearing that his Excellencie
should neuerthelesse come thither, he deter-
mined, to send certaine Deputies to the same
end to meete with him in the way, to di-
uert him, or else that the gates should be shut
against him. And lastly, that if hee entered
into the towne, he should be so well garded
with

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with shot, that none of the true reformed religion, should haue accessse vnto him, hauing procured so much that at the same time it was resolved, and after effected, that 300. new souldiers more were there raised and entertained.

Then he also, of his owne authoritie, sent

watches out to *Flienderdike* and other places, thereto arrest and stay all Souldiers that were at his Excellencies commaund that should passe there by, and not suffer them to go that way: and also sent some to *Amersforth*, with charge to enquire when his Excellencies troupe of Horse-men, lying there in garnison should come thither.

That also in the towne of *Vtrecht* he obtained liberty to haue 4. peeces of great Ordinance ready, to vse them when occasion serued, thereby to animate the said States of *Vtrecht* to resistance.

Of Discovery of the

That certaine Propositions or Articles, made by the Magistrates of *Haerlem*, were sent by Committees from the States of *Vtrecht*, to the said *Ledenberch*, at the assemblee of the States of *Holland* and *West-friesland*, & by him there presented, where by the said States, and others Deputies of towne they were approued and allowed, and after ward by letters from the said Deputies it was ordered, that their deliberation should be translated into *French*, and secretly sent into *France*, and other places out of the land, And that the same should import a new bond of vnite, to be made and kept among the good and assured townes, which should be drawn into a contract in writing. And that the meaning of the said townes was, to draw other good townes into the same, all which their proceedings in their contract in that case, were tearmed fearefull extremities, that might be procured by those of the true religion, he the said Prisoner keeping all these

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these things secret, and not (according to his dutie) once disclosed the same.

And when he vnderstood, and had intelligence, that the eight vnitied townes in *Holland* (the better to white themselves, and to secure their state against the other vnitied Provinces, and his Excellencie, and so to make the greater resistance,) had made a certaine secrete and earnest Procuration; or act of league and sent it to their Deputies; He found the meanes, that the greatest number of the two third parts of the States of *Vtrecht* by voices agreed vpon the like procuration or act of league, and the other third part of them by report onely, and after drew and made the same, and gaue it to *Monsieur Moersbergen* going to the *Hage*, as if it had beene absolutely consented vnto, and agreed vpon by all the members of the State, thereby, better to moue and incourage the States of *Vtrecht* to the aforesaid resistance. But the Magistrates of *Vtrecht* perceiuing

A Discouerie of the

their intent, expressly limited their commission, with this clause, that it should not be used, for the furtherance of present extremities, or for the making of new combinations or vnities.

And for that the maintaining of new companies of souldiers, tended to the soaking and drawing drie of the meanes and treasure of the Prouince of Vtrecht, and the confusion of their State: And that thereupon the said States were resolved, to send a good number of Deputies, (and among the rest the said *Ledenbergh*) to the *Flags*, to giue his Excellency an ouerture, and to shew him that the said States were content and willing to call here the said new companies of Souldiers: He presently began to labour and to worke against the said Commission; first going to the said *Barnast*, and consulted with him how that their Commission might be kept close and not opened: And after went to *Pinsbeggart*, where he instructed

Haen

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How the Pensionarie, *Hogerbaet*, and *Grotius*, by diuers arguments and reasons how to perswade the other Deputies of *Vtrecht* not to open their said Commission. Yet desiring that the same should onely be kept secret to his fellow Committies and himselfe, making as though hee knew nothing thereof. Whereby vpon the 25. of *June* 1618. *Siluesteri*, at *Daniel Trefels* house, it being in question there, the Pensionarie aforesaid vied the said reasons, and perswasions, thereby to moue the rest of the Commissioners to grant thereunto, to whom hee gaue such an answer, that it seemed rather to tend vnto the hinderance then furtherance of their aforesaid Commission: By which means he perswaded the better part of his fellow Commissioners so farre, that they also (notwithstanding further reiteration made by the aforesaid States of *Vtrecht* to the contrary) did not open their Commission: but without doing any thing therein, went backe againe to *Vtrecht*, to the great hinderance of the States of the Land, and specially those of the towne and territorie of *Vtrecht*; onely
vpon

And A Discouery of the

upon promise and hope of assistance made
and giuen vnto them by the aforesaid *Barnes*
and his aduise, that they should be con-
stant and nor once grant nor give consent to
the Synode, nor seeke to discharge their new
Soldiers, but rather to continue them still:
and withall to haue a care of their watch,
and the keeping of their gates for the safetie
of their towns.

That he rather sought to follow that ad-
uise, then to fulfill and effect the Commis-
sion of his principall Commanders, and yet
acknowledged, that he perceived that there
was some sinister and bad meaning, and
that he very well knew, that the said *Barnes*
spake much to the preiudice of his Ex-
cellencie, as also that he took too much vp-
on him, but yet that by his great authoritie
he over-ruld him.

That

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13 That he also with others determined vpon strengthening of certaine Forts & houses in the Prouince of Vtrecht, as the house of *Duersteed*, the house of *Abconde*, and of *Eem*, as also of the towne of *Woerden* out of the Prouince of Vtrecht, lying in *Holland*.

14 That he did not as he ought to haue done, truly open and declare, the aduises by *Monsieur van Moersbergben* sent vnto him from the *Hage*, to the States of Vtrecht, but kept them secret to himselfe.

15 And when his Excellencie with diuers Committees of the generallitie vpon the 23. of *July* 1618. were desired to go to Vtrecht, with Commission there to moue the States of Vtrecht, to discharge their new souldiers,

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and

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and to the consenting to the Synode, or to
cause the said cashiering of the Souldiers to
be done, and those of Vtrecht were aduer-
tised thereof, he found meanes to get *Mon-*
sieur van Moersbergen to bee sent vnto the
Hage from them of *Holland*, (following the
aforesaid procuration) to seeke for counsell
against his said Excellencie, and the Com-
mittees for the generall States : although
that before he could get to the *Hage*, the a-
foresaid *Barnenelt*, contrarie to his allegi-
ance, had in the name of the States of *Hol-*
land sent *Hagerebert* the Pensionary, *de Graot*,
and some others, to the same end : with
whom the said *Ledenberch* hauing priuate
conference, counselled them presently to
crave audience, Giving them aduice what
they should propound, which was to moue
them of Vtrecht to be of good courage, and
that they should in the name of the States of
Holland offer them present aide and assistance
both of men and meanes : which before the
comming of his Excellencie and the Com-
mittees thither, they did.

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16

And that when they were come to Vtrecht, and had made their said Commission known, he the said *Ledenberch*, for an answer to their proposition, would not acknowledge them to be Comitties sent from the general States, notwithstanding that in qualitie thereof they had deliuered their Commission to be seene, and made certaine speeches in open audience tending to the same end.

17

That purposely to hinder his Excellencie and the other Comitties from effecting their Commission, he had secret conference with those that were sent out of *Holland*, to consult about the setting of the watch, for order to be taken that no other Souldiers should be brought into the towne: That the Artillery men should watch in the Towne house, that certaine places should be seized vpon and holden, whereby they might best

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defend

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defend the States chamber, and the Towne house; as also, to hold the White Nunnes bridge strong, and to place certaine peeces of Ordinance vpon it, giuing Captaine *Hartenelt* commandement, ouer all the new Souldiers, with Commission to follow the commandement of the chiefe Bourghemaster of *Vtrecht*, giuing forth, that if they that were sent out of *Holland*, could so bring it to passe, that the Companies lying in the town, and vnder the *Hollanders* pay, would be quiet and stirre not, that they had taken such an order with their new Souldiers, that they would bring their purpose well to passe.

That when the said *Hartenelt* perceiuing that he should be employed against his Excellencie, and the generall States, made difficultie thereof, he the said *Ledenberch* in a secret assembly, holden in an extraordinarie place and at an vnconuenient time, told him that it was a point of faintnesse in him, and that

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that he should rather boldly enterprise the same, the better to moue others thereunto, and that if any Souldiers made difficultie to serue in that manner, that inquiry should be made of them, that for an example to others they might be punished.

19

That he also promised them, to continue their entertainment, and that if they were cashiered, that he would bring them to an other place, where they should be intertain-ed, and yet he knew well, that such continuance of those new Souldiers, tended to the viter decreasing and consuming of the treasure of the vnited Prouinces.

20

That to make the said resistance firme, the day before the new Souldiers were cashiered, he desired those that were sent out of *Holland*, to deliuer their letters which they had, in the name of the States of *Holland*.

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to

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to the Commanders over the Souldiers that were in Vtrecht vnder the *Hollanders* pay; The contents thereof being, that the said Commanders, were bound and obliged to be faithfull, true, and obedient, to their Paymasters, and the States of the respective Provinces, wherein they were, or lay in garrison, and to aide and assist them in the maintaining and vpholding of all their resolutions, without doing, or suffering any thing to be done to the contrarie.

21
That to show his great desire and readinesse, to the furtherance of the said resistance, vpon perswasion of some of them that came out of *Holland*, with all his might he withstood, that they of Vtrecht should enter in to no further dealing with his Excellencie, giuing forth, that the State of Vtrecht could not beare it. All which his proceedings tended to no other end, then only to cut off all the waies and meanes of reformation, and in the meane time to stirre vp all the ordinarie

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rie Souldiers, the new companies, and the Artillery men of the Towne against the States generall and his Excellencie. Thereby to hinder and let the execution of their commission; and to annihilate their authoritie, so to finde the meanes to make the towne of Vtrecht a sink and puddle of bloud, to bring the whole State of the Land, and his Excellencie into utter ruine, and destruction, and to open the doore vnto the breach of the vnitie made betweene the vnited Netherland Prouinces. And after that the cathering of the souldiers was done, by his Excellencie, fearing that the ground, and intent of those had proceedings might come to light, hee tooke the greatest part of the letters written vnto him by diuers Deputies of the States, out of the Office, and sent them to the said Deputies againe. And at last being apprehended, fearing least hee should be compelled to discouer and disclose the ground thereof, and to shew the cause why such proceedings were in that sort vsed, and to what end the aforesaid designe should at last haue come, as also to shew the punishment which he:

done A *Discovery* of the

hetherby had deformed, he purposed secretly to murder himselfe; And to that end, with premeditated courage, vpon the 17. of September 1618 *Stiles rotti*, he wrote a small letter in French with his owne hand, the contents thereof being, that to shun and preuent confrontings with his best friends, torments, ignominious sentence, and confiscation of all his Lands and goods, he was determined to kill himselfe, giving the letter to *Jeoff* his sonne, that vnderstood no French, and as then was suffered to be with him to helpe him, and so that, and the next day making no shew at all of any bad intent, that way, betwene the 18. and 19. daies of September aforesaid, in the night he murdered himselfe, with a knife, some daies before laid purposely aside to that end, with two stabs in his belly, and cut off his ——— And for that all the actions aforesaid, manifestly tended to the overthrowing of the peace of the land, to breake the principall bond of vnitie, to stirre vp the members thereof vnto dissention, among themselves, and so not tolerable, but worthily to be punished for
an

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an example unto others. The aforesaid
Judges, by wise deliberation and good ad-
vice, (having considered and well weighed
all the circumstances and points of the aforesaid
treason,) In the name of the States ge-
nerall of the united Nederland Provinces,
declare and pronounce the aforesaid *Gis-
bert van Ledenberch* for the same crime to have de-
served death and loss of all his goods, com-
manding and ordaining, that the dead body
of the said *Gisbert* should be laid in a coffin
on a hurdle, and drawn to the place of exe-
cution without the Flage, and there to be
hangd vpon the Gallows, declaring all his
goods and lands to be confiscate. Given by
the said Judges, in private Seals, and pro-
nounced the 19. of May. 1619.


Vnder written
By order of the Judges
at Amsterdam

H. FOTL

H

The

THE COPIE OF Barne-
nells letter to his Wife
and Children

 **E**ry loving Wife and Children, I draw
more unto my bed, I am by the mercy
of God at peace; I hope that ye like-
wise will be also, and endeavour to
continue all by sincere love, peace, and concord,
which at this time, being my last prayer, I am praying
for with all firmness. John Bancke, that faith-
fully served me many yeares, as also in this my affli-
ction, and will serve me till the end, be-
cometh to be recommended, and either by your selves or
some others advanced to good condition: I pray you
let it be so; I have caused to beseech his Princely Ecc-
cellencie that he would be pleased to continue you my
sonnes and children in his favour: unto which hee
answered in generall termes, that so long as ye com-
port

port your friend, which I recom-
mend to you, and commend you all to
Gods holy keeping. Kisse each other, and all my chil-
dren, children on my behalfe, as the last time; So fare
ye well. From my dolefull chamber the 13. of May
1619. and was signed.

John van Ouldenbarnevelt.

Give *John Francke* some thing
in remembrance of mee.

FINIS
